

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

According to the April 30, 2007, edition of the *Washington Post*, Sudanese military aircraft have conducted air strikes against the site of anticipated rebel unity talks in Darfur, in direct violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1564 (2004). If substantiated, we believe this action also constitutes a breach of General Bashir's agreement with the United Nations on April 18, 2007, thereby necessitating the immediate imposition of targeted bilateral sanctions against those individuals and businesses complicit in genocide in Darfur. We further urge you to use the occasion of the United States' Presidency of the United Nations Security Council in May 2007 to press for the adoption of a resolution to expand and enhance the multilateral sanctions regime against perpetrators of genocide in Darfur, and expand the existing arms embargo to include a total ban on weapons sales to the regime in Khartoum.

During your speech at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on April 18, 2007, you stated, "The brutal treatment of innocent civilians in Darfur is unacceptable – it is unacceptable to me, it is unacceptable to Americans, it's unacceptable to the United Nations – at least, that's what they've said. This status quo must not continue."

While noting the recent agreement on the "heavy support package" for the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), you acknowledged that the regime in Khartoum has a long history of promising cooperation, then actively undermining efforts to bring peace to Sudan. You then forcefully stated, "The time for promises is over. President Bashir must act."

The President  
May 10, 2007  
Page Two

Finally, you laid out a series of actions that the United States was prepared to take if Sudan's leader failed to facilitate the rapid deployment of a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission, continued to support armed groups in Darfur, or acted to obstruct humanitarian relief efforts in the region. These measures included the blocking of all dollar transactions passing through U.S. financial systems linked to the regime in Khartoum, the addition of 29 Sudanese companies to the Treasury Department's list of Specially Designated Nationals, and the introduction of a resolution at the United Nations Security Council which would apply new sanctions and expand the existing arms embargo to include a ban on weapons sales to Khartoum. You also spoke of possible international measures to, "end Sudan's use of military aircraft to attack innocent civilians," and "deny Sudan's government the ability to fly its military aircraft over Darfur."

We understand that it was with reluctance and trepidation that you decided to temporarily delay those actions following a specific, public request by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for more time to pursue diplomacy. We also understand the difficulty you are facing in effectively confronting Khartoum when it seems no one else is cooperating. However, that murderous regime has demonstrated time and time again that it has no interest in honoring its commitments. The recent air strikes in Darfur are only the most recent reminder of the duplicitous nature of that government.

The patience of the American people has been exhausted. The time for action is now.

Mr. President, you have made important contributions to the African Continent, particularly through the tripling of foreign assistance to Africa and the establishment of bold new initiatives such as the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, the President's Malaria Initiative, the African Education Initiative and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

One of the greatest foreign policy success stories of your Administration has been the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for Sudan in 2005, which, for the moment, has ended over two decades of war between the government in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in the south of Sudan. The war in the South spawned some of the worst human rights atrocities, leaving over two million people dead and four million others displaced. Without United States leadership and support, the opportunity for peace embodied in the CPA surely would have been lost.

Unfortunately, these successes have been obscured by the horror that has befallen Darfur, and the continued strife threatens to undermine the hard-fought but fragile peace in Southern Sudan.

The President  
May 10, 2007  
Page Three

We know you share our frustration, and urge you to follow your instincts. The time has come to authorize the actions you outlined on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Though the United States can not end the conflict in Darfur on its own, it is hoped that these actions will help change the political calculus of the regime in Khartoum by making the cost of obstructionism too dear. Additionally, it is hoped that the imposition of a total ban on weapons sales to Khartoum will help change the behavior of those feeding Sudan's military machine, including China and Russia, while limiting the ability of the Sudanese military from inflicting further violence upon civilians in Darfur.

The time is at hand to reassert the resolve of the United States that the atrocities taking place in Darfur cannot stand. We urge you to do everything within your power to inflict serious economic pain upon those who act as obstructionists to peace, and to take other actions as necessary, to halt the continued assault against human dignity in Darfur.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Ranking Member  
Committee of Foreign Affairs



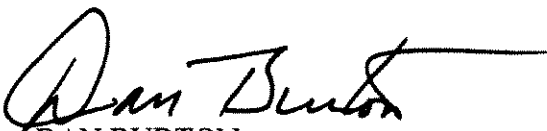
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The President  
May 10, 2007  
Page Four



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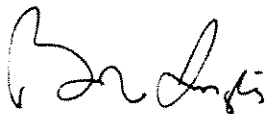
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